

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
STATE REVIEW SHEET

B-4140

Historic Preservation Certification Application--Part I

Property: 814 OTTERBEIN STREET, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Historic District: BARRE CIRCLE

12-19-86 date initial application received by State

date additional information requested by State

12-19-86 date complete information received by State

date of this transmittal to NPS

inspection of property by State staff? ☒ no ☐ yes

date: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ There is adequate documentation enclosed to evaluate the historic character and integrity of this property.

☐ There is insufficient documentation to evaluate the property adequately. The application is missing the following items: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasonable efforts, described below, have been made to obtain this information. Copies of the information requests are enclosed.

1

This property involves:

☐ Extensive loss of historic fabric

☐ Substantial alterations over time

☒ ~~Preliminary~~ determination of listing

☒ for district

☐ for individual property

☐ Obscured or covered elevation(s)

☐ Moved property

☐ State recommendation inconsistent with NR documentation

☐ Recommendation different than the applicant's request

2

Complete one section below as appropriate.

(1) ☒ The property ☒ contributes ☐ does not contribute to the historic significance of this district in:

☒ location ☒ design ☒ setting ☒ materials ☒ workmanship ☒ feeling and association

Property is mentioned in the NR documentation in Section   , page   .

(2) ☐ For properties less than 50 years old:

☐ the historical merits of the district (the periods and areas of significance) are documented in the National Register nomination form or district documentation on file as less than 50 years old, justifying the certification of this property's contribution.

☐ the strong historical or architectural merit of this property as described in the National Register nomination form or district documentation on file justifies its certification as contributing.

☐ there is insufficient justification to consider this property contributing to the district on the basis of its individual architectural or historical merits or the significance of the district does not extend up to and including the latest 50 year period.

Briefly explain how Standard (3) applies to this property's individual merits or its significance in relationship to the significant qualities and characteristics of the district.

(3) For preliminary determinations:

A. The status of the nomination for the property/historic district:

☐ Nomination has already been submitted to State review board, and if reviewed by the board, nomination will be forwarded to the NPS within a reasonable period of time. (Draft nomination is enclosed.)

☐ Nomination was submitted to the NPS on \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ Nomination will be submitted to the State review board within twelve months.

☐ Nomination process likely will be completed within thirty months.

☐ Other; explain: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Evaluation of the property:

☐ Property ☐ is individually eligible and meets National Register Criteria for Evaluation

☐ Property is located within a potential registered district that meets National Register Criteria for Evaluation

☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Exceptions:

(4) The property is located in a registered district, is outside the period(s) and/or area(s) of significance as documented in the NR nomination and:

☐ appears to contribute to the expanded significance of the district. Enclosed is the revised nomination documentation.

☐ does not appear to contribute to the period(s) and/or area(s) of significance of the district.

Complete sections below for all properties:

3

Description of district including the period(s) and area(s) of significance as described in the National Register documentation or documentation on file (except for preliminary determination of individual listing). THE BARRE CIRCLE HISTORIC DISTRICT IS AN URBAN DISTRICT COMPRISING APPROXIMATELY

200 STRUCTURES, LOCATED IN THE WESTERN SECTION OF BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND. THE DISTRICT IS CHARACTERIZED BY HIGHLY UNIFIED AND CONSISTANT BLOCKS OF BRICK ROWHOUSES, MOST OF WHICH WERE CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN CA. 1850 AND THE CIVIL WAR, WITH SOME BLOCKS AND GROUPS REPRESENTING LATER DATES INTO THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY. THESE BUILDINGS ARE GENERALLY TWO BAYS WIDE, UNIFORMLY NARROW, AND FROM TWO TO THREE STORIES IN HEIGHT, WITH LOW-PITCHED GABLE OR SHED ROOFS AND SMALL BRICK BUILDINGS. THEY ARE NOTABLY UNPRETENTIOUS AND DEVOID OF ALL BUT THE MOST MINIMAL ORNAMENT, PROTECTING BRICK COURSES SOMETIMES FROM CORNICES. Period(s) of significance: 19TH & 20TH Section 7, page 1.

Description of the property documenting current condition. THIS STRUCTURE IS PART OF A ROW OF SIMPLE BRICK ROWHOUSES, TWO BAYS WIDE AND TWO STORIES HIGH WITH A SIMPLE BRACKETED CORNICE. NO WINDOWS EXIST ON EITHER THE FRONT OR REAR FACADES AND THE EXISTING DOORS ARE DETERIORATED BEYOND REPAIR. THE BRICK IS IN GOOD CONDITION EXCEPT AT THE REAR WHERE IT HAS BEEN STUCCOED. THE CORNICE IS ALSO IN GOOD CONDITION. INTERIOR PLAN CONSISTS OF TWO ROOMS ON EACH FLOOR WITH A CENTRALLY LOCATED STAIR. THE INTERIOR STAIRS HAVE COLLAPSED FROM DETERIORATION AND ALL INTERIOR TRIM IS GONE. THE PLASTER WALLS ARE IN UNREPAIRABLE CONDITION.

Retains sufficient integrity: ☒ Yes ☐ No

THIS STRUCTURE IS SIGNIFICANT IN THAT IT IS INDICATIVE OF THE TYPE OF SMALL STRUCTURES BEING BUILT IN THIS AREA OF BALTIMORE TO ACCOMMODATE THE BLUE-COLLAR WORKERS ATTRACTED BY THE BOOMING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA. IT NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTES ARCHITECTURALLY, BUT HELPS TO DEFINE THE CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT AS WELL.

4

#### State Official Recommendation:

This application for the above-named property has been reviewed by MICHAEL DAY, a professionally qualified architect, architectural historian, or historian on my staff.

☒ The property is included within the boundaries of a registered historic district, contributes to the significance of the district, and is a "certified historic structure" for the purpose of rehabilitation.

☐ The property is included within the boundaries of a registered historic district, contributes to the significance of the district, and is a "certified historic structure" for a charitable contribution for conservation purposed in accordance with the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980.

☐ The property does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.

☐ The property appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely be nominated.

☐ The property does not appear to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will not be nominated.

☐ The property appears to contribute to the significance of a:

☐ potential historic district which appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely be nominated.


☐ registered historic district but is outside the period(s) and area(s) of significance as documented in the National Register nomination or district documentation on file with the NPS. Revised nomination or district documentation is enclosed.

☐ The property should be denied a preliminary determination that it could qualify as a certified historic structure.

☐ Insufficient documentation has been provided to evaluate the structure.

☐ Detailed NPS review recommended ☐ Precedent setting case ☐ Forwarded without recommendation

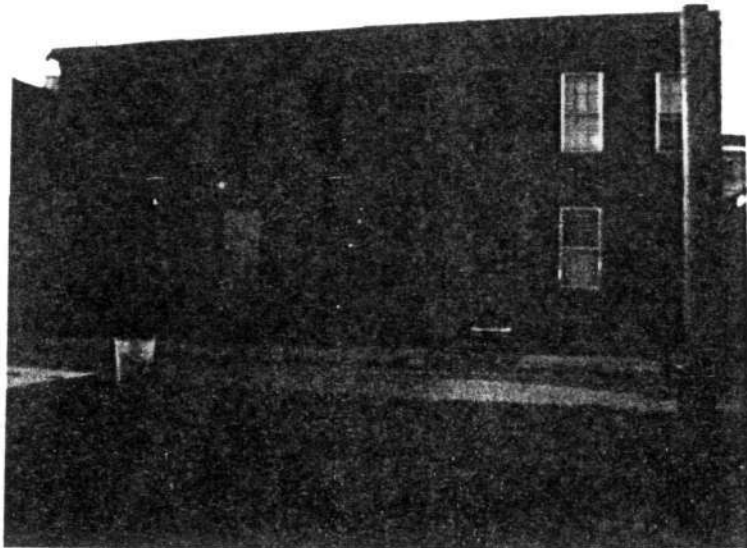
Date: 1-5-87

State Official Signature: 

## DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICT (cont.)

or belts, segmental-arched openings and simple bracketed cornices of wood or tin occasionally appear, but the overall impression evoked by these buildings is one of remarkable austerity, consistent with their origins as quickly-constructed housing for the burgeoning masses of blue-collar workers attracted by the booming industrial development of the adjacent areas which began in the mid 19th Century.

B-4140



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OMB Approved  
No. 1024-0009  
Expires 8/31/86

RECEIVED

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATION  
PART 1 - EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

B-4140

DEC 19 1986

NPS Office Use Only

Project Number:

Instructions: Read and understand fully before completing application. No certification will be made unless a completed application form has been received. Use typewriter or print clearly in black ink. If additional space is needed, use continuation sheets or attach blank sheets.

1. Name of property: 314 Otterbein Street  
Address of property: 314 Otterbein Street  
City Baltimore County \_\_\_\_\_ State MD Zip Code 21230  
Name of historic district: Barre Circle Historic District  
☒ National Register district ☐ certified state or local district ☐ potential historic district

2. Check nature of request:  
☒ certification that the building contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district for the purpose of rehabilitation.  
☐ certification that the structure or building and, where appropriate, the land area on which such a structure or building is located contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes.  
☐ certification that the building does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.  
☐ preliminary determination for individual listing in the National Register.  
☐ preliminary determination that a building located within a potential historic district contributes to the significance of the district.  
☐ preliminary determination that a building outside the period or area of significance contributes to the significance of the district.

3. Authorized project contact:  
Name David Robbins Title Owner/Architect  
Street 4907 Edmondson Avenue City Baltimore  
State MD Zip 21229 Telephone Number (during day): (301) 566-4243

4. Owner:  
Name David Robbins, Katherine Robbins, Tracy Back  
Street 4907 Edmondson Avenue City Baltimore  
State Maryland Zip 21229 Telephone Number (during day): (301) 566-4243

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I own the above-named property.

Owner's Signature [Signature] Date 11-26-86  
Social Security Number or Taxpayer Identification Number [REDACTED]

NPS Office Use Only

The National Park Service has reviewed the "Historic Preservation Certification Application - Part 1" for the above-named property and hereby determines that the property:

- ☐ contributes to the significance of the above-named district and is a "certified historic structure" for the purpose of rehabilitation.  
☐ contributes to the significance of the above-named district and is a "certified historic structure" for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes in accordance with the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980.  
☐ does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.

Preliminary Determinations:

- ☐ appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer according to the procedures set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
☐ does not appear to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely not be listed in the National Register.  
☐ appears to contribute to the significance of a potential historic district, which will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer.  
☐ appears to contribute to the significance of a registered historic district but is outside the period or area of significance as documented in the National Register nomination or district documentation on file with the NPS.  
☐ does not appear to qualify as a certified historic structure.

Date

National Park Service Authorized Signature

National Park Service Office



HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
CERTIFICATION APPLICATION—  
PART 1

NPS Office Use Only

B-4140

Property Name  
314 Otterbein Street

Property Address

David Robbins/[REDACTED], Katherine Robbins [REDACTED] Tracy Back [REDACTED]

Owner Name/Social Security or Taxpayer ID Number

Project Number: 1

5. Description of physical appearance: This project consists of three small unpainted brick rowhouses located within a registered historic district. Each of these two story buildings is alike except the plan of the end unit (318) is reversed. They stand together on a small alley street in a row with one other unit. The buildings had all been abandoned for several years; open and exposed to the elements. There were few doors or windows remaining, the stairs had all collapsed, and the interiors were completely destroyed. The tar and felt roofs are almost flat, sloping gently to the rear. These needed to be completely rebuilt.

These houses are so plain and simple that they do not fit any particular architectural style. The facades (both front and rear) have two untrimmed window on the second floor and another window and a door on the first floor. The lintels on the top were unadorned wood on 314 and 316; the ones at 318 had been replaced with metal and brick. The plans are rectangular; two rooms up, 2 rooms down with a stair dividing them in the middle. There were no surviving original interior finish materials. All walls and ceiling were undecorated plaster, no trim.

Date of Construction: Circa 1880 Source of Date: Title Search at Settlement

Date(s) of Alteration(s): N/A

Has building been moved? ☐ yes ☒ no. If so, when?

6. Statement of significance:

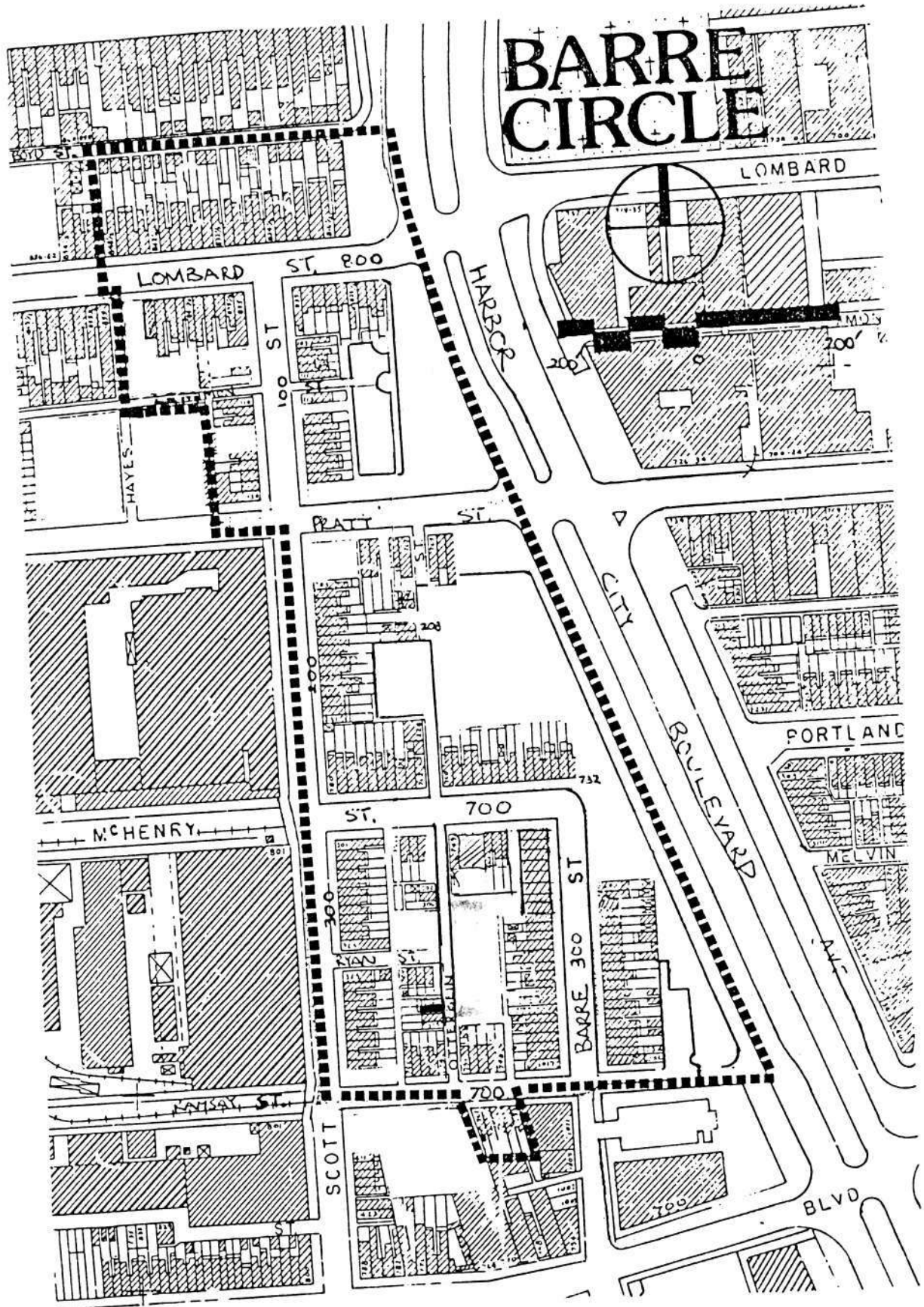
The significance of these little houses lies not in their individual features, but for their contribution to the rich urban fabric of this historic district. The Barre Circle area in which they are located is made up primarily of buildings similar to these in size, date, and materials. There was a lot of housing in this area for the families of factory workers employed in the industrial and warehouse districts located nearby around the harbor. Their small size and lack of decoration reflects the simple lifestyle of those people who probably walked the few blocks to those factories.

These houses hold special significance within this area for they are located on one of the few open green spaces in this part of Baltimore. Otterbein Street, a small alley-like street, is the only access to this little park and these four houses (our three and one other in the row) are the only ones which face on to it. Thus, it seems to us that their primary significance is the fact that they are the only formal elements which make this open space a park rather than simply a communal backyard.

7. Photographs and maps.

Attach photographs and maps to application.

Continuation sheets attached: ☐ yes ☒ no

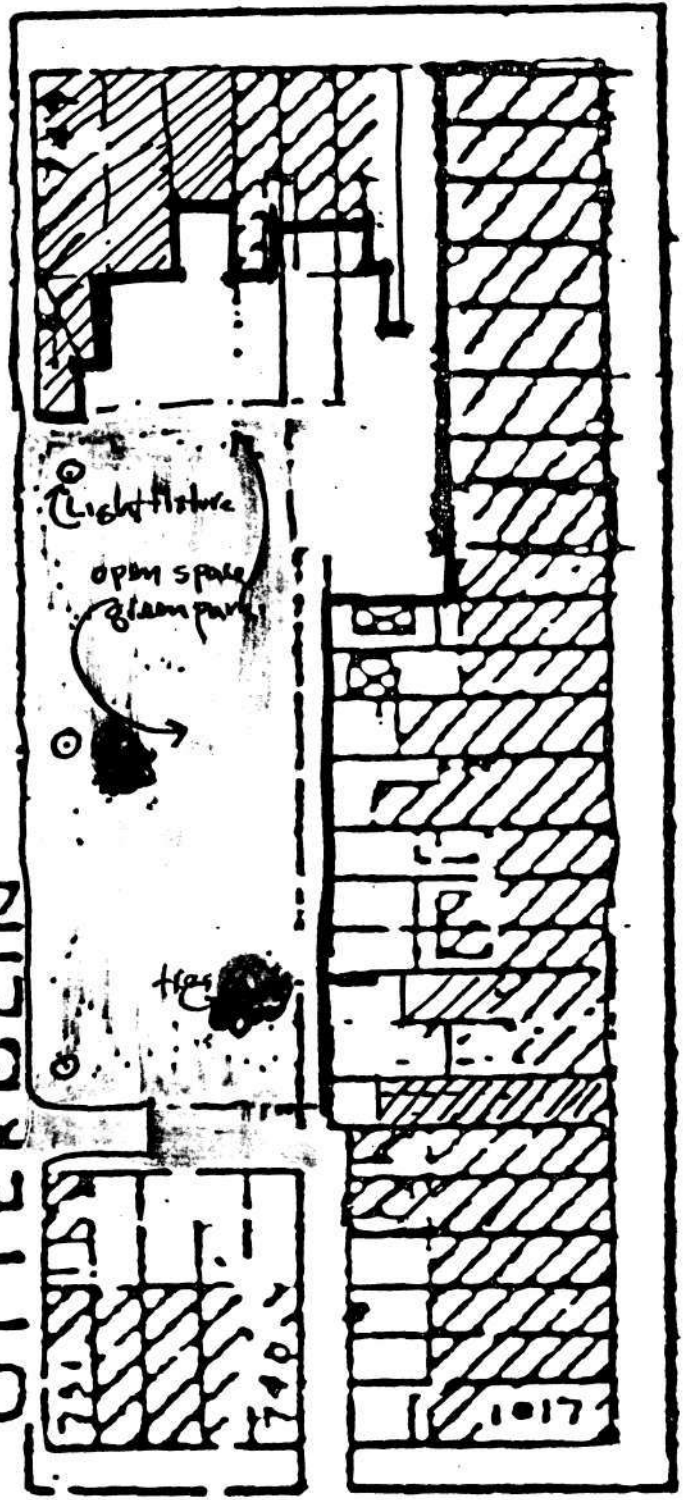
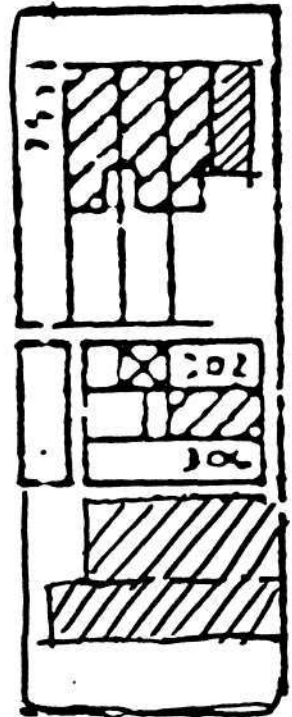
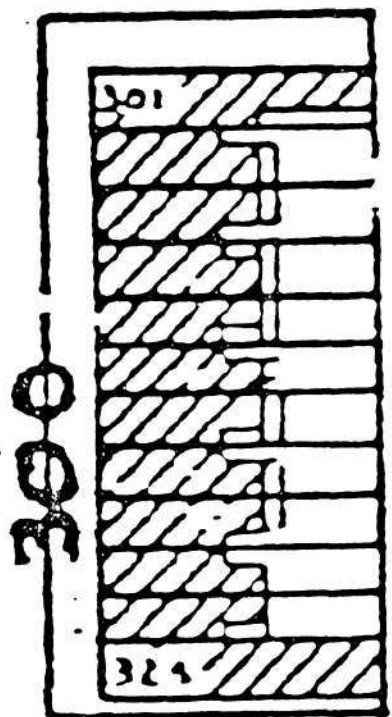


BARRE CIRCLE NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT 1/10/83

McHenry ST.

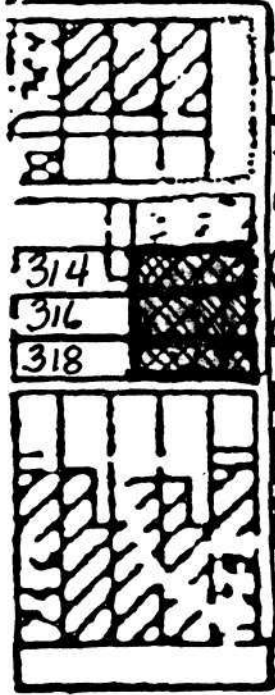
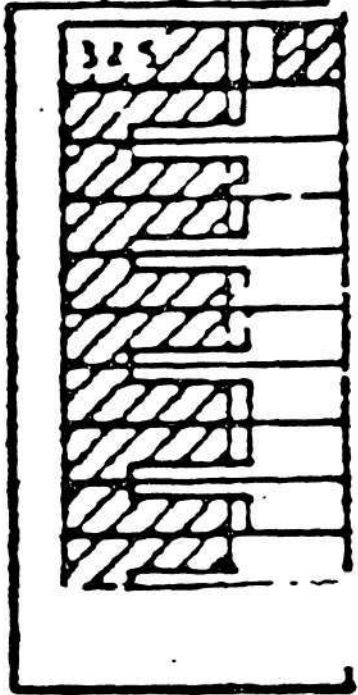
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B-4140



RYAN

ST.



OTTERBEIN

BARRE 300 ST

700

Ramsy st

319

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## National Register and Baltimore City Historic Districts (Page 1)

## Barre Circle National Register Historic District

W. Barre Street	1018-1056	1017-1063
Boyd Street		829-851
W. Lombard Street	816-848½	819-849
McHenry Street	732-780	737-757
Otterbein Street	202-318	
W. Pratt Street	761-779	
Ramsay Street	748-766	753-761
Ryan Street	743-749	
Scott Street ..	102-130	103-343

## Bolton Hill Baltimore City and National Register Historic District

Bolton Place	202-212	201-217
Bolton Street	1200-1836	1201-1839
Brevard Street	1434-1532	
Cathedral Street	1400	
Dolphin Lane	232-236	
Dolphin Street	100-300	
Eutaw Place	1200-2102	1201-1925
John Street	1204-1436	1203-1431
Jordan Street		1401-1421
W. Lafayette Street	110-310	117-309
W. Lanvale Street	116-310	117-241
Laurens Street	206-240	
Linden Avenue	1700-1734	1227-1735
Linden Green	1300-1310	1301-1311
Mason Street	1400-1420	1401
McMechen Street	120-250	121-301
Mosher Street	104	121-307
W. Mount Royal Avenue	1200-1600	
W. North Avenue		709-1001
Park Avenue	1100-1758	1101-1741
Robert Street	250-260	251-261
Rutter Street	1302-1402	
Wilson Street	156-250	201-213

## Butchers Hill Baltimore City Historic District

E. Baltimore Street	2102-2240	2101-2237
N. Chester Street		5-9
N. Patterson Park Avenue	2	
S. Patterson Park Avenue	2	

## Butchers Hill National Register Historic District

E. Baltimore Street	2000-2300	1919-2237
Boyer Street	2122-2214	2211-2219
N. Castle Street	6-130	5-127
S. Castle Street	102-134	5-203
S. Chapel Street	4-32	5-115

BARRE CIRCLE

National Register of Historic Places 1/10/83  
Certified Historic District for Tax Incentives (NR)

Description:

The Barre Circle Historic District is an urban district comprising approximately 200 structures, located in the western section of Baltimore City. The district is characterized by highly unified and consistent blocks of brick rowhouses, most of which were constructed between ca. 1850 and the Civil War, with some blocks and groups representing later dates into the early 20th century. These buildings are generally two bays wide, uniformly narrow (12-14 feet), and from two to three stories in height, with low-pitched gable or shed roofs and small back buildings. They are most notably unpretentious and devoid of all but the most minimal ornament; projecting brick courses or belts, segmental-arched openings and simple bracketed cornices of wood or tin occasionally appear, but the overall impression evoked by these buildings is one of remarkable austerity, consistent with their origins as quickly-constructed housing for the burgeoning masses of blue-collar workers attracted by the booming industrial development of the adjacent areas which began in the mid-nineteenth century.

Significance

The Barre Circle Historic District is significant for its architecture and for its association with the industrial development of Baltimore City. Its cohesive streetscapes of modest, unadorned brick rowhouses reflect the architectural response to Baltimore's rapid industrial expansion in the mid-19th century, and typify urban workers' housing of the period. In the context of Baltimore's mid-19th century neighborhoods, Barre Circle is unusual in the consistently unpretentious character of its architecture, which reflects the historic social homogeneity of the area; whereas other rowhouse neighborhoods housed a mixture of white- and blue-collar workers, the managerial class and their more elaborate dwellings - were, and are, conspicuously absent from Barre Circle.

B-4140  
314 Otterbein Street  
Block 285 Lot 086  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore West Quad.

